



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS
BY
ANDY MARKOWSKI, CONNECTICUT STATE DIRECTOR
CONCERNING
HB-5060, AAC THE USE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
DENYING A PROMOTION TO AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED IN THE
FOOD SERVICE OR RETAIL INDUSTRIES
BEFORE THE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2010**

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association, respectfully submits the following comments concerning HB-5060, An Act Concerning The Use Of Criminal Records For The Purpose Of Denying A Promotion To An Individual Employed In The Food Service Or Retail Industries:

NFIB/Connecticut is concerned that the current legislation has the potential to set bad precedent which could lead to full suppression of relevant criminal record information about prospective and current employees from employers. Without unfettered access to full information about potential and current employees, employers are unable to act to protect their business and ensure the trust and safety of their employees, vendors, and the general public when making personnel decisions.

Access to accurate information is the best policy to advance fair employment and business growth and development. Legislation that limits or takes away the tools or information required by small business owners can be damaging.

Nearby states have recently been dealing with similar issues surrounding the use of criminal record information by employers. While some bills would make the criminal record reports easier to understand and remove unproven criminal charges, the most prominent and egregious of those proposals would seal felony and misdemeanor convictions of job applicants after a set period of time. NFIB/Connecticut would be opposed to any similar measures should they arise.

NFIB/Connecticut thanks the Committee for this opportunity to comment and express our concerns.